



New Castle Crier

The official newsletter of New Castle City

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New Castle, Delaware

December 2012

Superstorm Sandy wreaks havoc on mid-Atlantic, northeastern seaboard

While not hit nearly as hard as parts of New York and New Jersey, the State of Delaware and City of New Castle sustained significant damage from Superstorm Sandy – a record-setting weather event of epic proportions.

Damage of City infrastructure on the Delaware River shoreline was made worse by the wind coupled with very high tides influenced by the full moon.

The major public impacts of the storm include:

- Damage to all three of the City dikes, with Gambacorta being the worst (including walkway on top of the dike), requiring emergency repairs, including the placement of 208 one-ton sand bags;
- Destruction of the City pier;
- Severe damage to sections of the paved walkway in Battery Park;
- Massive amounts of debris scattered along the shoreline and points inland.

Many City and outside forces worked together before, during and after the storm, including:

- City Police and Volunteers In Police Service (VIPS);
- Public Services, including Public Works and Code Enforcement;
- Finance and Human Resources;
- Municipal Services Commission;
- Trustees of the New Castle Common;
- Good Will Fire Company;
- New Castle County Office of Emergency Management;
- New Castle Conservation Dist.;
- DEMA; DNREC; DelDOT;
- New Castle Community Corrections Centers;
- FEMA;

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Input sought for City Parking Survey

The City Planning Commission formed a subcommittee to study parking. That subcommittee is conducting a parking survey.

Paper surveys were included along with the December MSC utility billing. Survey recipients are encouraged to complete and return the

surveys no later than the deadline of January 11.

In lieu of submitting a paper survey, respondents may complete the survey online, by the January 11 deadline, following the link on the City Web site at:
NewCastleCity.Delaware.gov.

The next
regular
City Council
meeting is 7 p.m.,
Tues., Dec. 11 at
Town Hall

December Holiday Events – Saturday, December 8

12th Annual Spirit of Christmas—“Twelve Years of Christmas” in the Spirit of Giving
10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

All events are free to the public.

Homes will be open throughout the Historic District. The Spirit of Christmas celebration features:

- A Full Day of Concerts
- Private Home Tours
- Musical Events
- Museums
- Crafts
- Shopping
- Refreshments



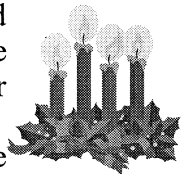
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New Castle By Candlelight

Museums of Old New Castle from 6 to 9 p.m.

The Amstel House, Dutch House, Read House and Court House will be open the evening of December 8 for visitors to tour in a new way—by candlelight!

Visitors will walk from one historic site to the next along New Castle's charming brick sidewalks, lined with festive luminaries, and may even meet a group of carolers along the way! In the museums you'll meet reenactors, enjoy traditional refreshments, and holiday music.



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New Castle – The First Capital City!

The most picturesque and historic waterfront community on the East Coast!

Superstorm Sandy

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- U.S. Coast Guard;
- Holloway Terrace Fire Company;
- Minquas Fire Company;
- Many anonymous citizens assisted with debris collection and removal;

Spirit of Christmas

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The event is sponsored by Colonial Financial and Income Tax Services, the New Castle Presbyterian Church and the New Castle Visitors Bureau.

Programs for self-guided tours will be available at the Church's Christian Education Building, 25 E. Second St. beginning at 10 a.m.

Experience celebrations of Christmas and the holiday season taking place throughout New Castle, including private homes,

- A number of private contractors. The City is immensely grateful to all who provided assistance.

The City continues to address many post-storm issues, including working with County, State and Federal officials to ensure the

churches and museum tours open to the public and decorated for the season.

Many historic homes throughout the Historic District of New Castle will be open free to the public from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The day's celebration will be capped off with the annual tree lighting ceremony on the Center Green at 5 p.m. (behind the Town Hall on Delaware Street).

The Meeting House of the 355-year old Presbyterian Church will host musical events and Carlo Viola's fine art photography will be

City's eligibility to receive the full FEMA reimbursement available, including mitigation-related items.

For a more detailed report on Superstorm Sandy, go online to the City's Web site at: NewCastleCity.Delaware.gov.

available for purchase in sets of greeting cards.

The Celtic Harps Concert is scheduled at 10 a.m., the Hand Bell Concerts are at 1 and 3 p.m. and the New Ark Chorale at 3 p.m.

Children can visit Santa and make a craft at the New Castle Library, 424 Delaware Street from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Craft items, homemade breads and soups, gently used books, and our "Look What \$20 Will Buy" items will be for sale at the Christian Education Building. All profits from the sales will be donated to Friendship House Homeless Ministries.

Free cookies with hot and cold beverages will be served and downtown restaurants will be open throughout the day.

For more information, call the Church office at 328-3279, visit www.NewCastlePresChurch.org, or visit us on Facebook.

City Offices Closed & No Trash Pickup: Mon., Dec. 24 & Tues., Dec. 25
Mon. Trash Collected Wed., 12/26; Tues. Trash Collected Thurs., 12/27
No Recycling Pickup Thursday, December 27
City-Wide Recycling Pickup Friday, December 28
City Offices Closed & No Trash Pickup: Tuesday, January 1
Tuesday Trash Collected Wednesday, January 2

Code Enforcement Corner

Code Enforcement helps maintain and improve the quality of life of New Castle City residents by administering an unbiased enforcement program to correct violations of City zoning, property maintenance and building codes. Complaint forms are available at the City offices or on the City Web site at: NewCastleCity.Delaware.gov. To reach the Code Enforcement Officer, call 323-6081.

Complaints are handled on a confidential basis. If feedback and/or updates are requested, however, a name, address and phone number need to be provided with the complaint.

This month's highlights and general reminders

The following are common code violations that seem to be misunderstood by many City residents:

- Residents are responsible for sidewalks in front of their property. Please ensure that sidewalks are clear of snow and /or ice, with a minimum of a three foot width clearance, within **24 hours** of the storm ceasing or the ice forming.
- Inoperative/junked and/or unregistered vehicles cannot be stored outside.
- Bulk items (stoves, refrigerators, TV's, furniture, tires, etc.) require special pickup if disposal is desired – arrangements can be made **prior to placing the items at the curb for pickup** by calling 322-9813.



Candlelight

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The museums will feature the theme "Home For The Holidays" commemorating the Delaware homefront during times of conflict, from the 17th century Anglo-Dutch Wars to the most recent wars of the modern era.

Tickets for the New Castle By Candlelight event are \$20 per adult (\$15 NCHS & DHS members) and \$10 per child (\$5 NCHS & DHS members). Family packages are available for two adults with children for \$50 (\$35 NCHS & DHS members). Purchase tickets by calling the Society at 302-322-2794 or online visit: NewCastleHistory.org.